

April 24, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Leader of the Majority
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Leader of the Minority
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
House Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
House Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senators Reid and McConnell;
Speaker Pelosi and Congressmen Hoyer and Boehner:

As Governors, we write to you on behalf of farmers and ranchers in our states who have a vital interest in the conclusion and outcome of the Farm Bill currently under consideration by the Congress. We ask that you move forward in a bipartisan fashion to pass this important legislation.

In December, many of us wrote to you urging for the successful completion of the Farm Bill. We asked that Congress move forward on this legislation, which is significant to our states. We appreciate that following our letter, the Senate overwhelmingly passed its bill.

However, in the months since, the Congress has yet to complete a final Farm Bill and with yet another short-term extension, the debate continues. Meanwhile our agriculture producers are making planting decisions, implementing conservation plans, and attempting to manage their production risk all without knowing what farm policy provisions under which they operate.

We all agree that federal farm legislation should provide a dependable safety net for our nation's farmers; assist rural development efforts, enhance renewable energy options, encourage good conservation; and provide nutrition programs for the nation's needy families. It is essential that negotiators find common ground in order to complete this important bill.

Reid, McConnell, Pelosi, Hoyer, and Boehner


Page Two


April 24, 2008


Again, we urge the members of Congress to work toward a compromise on this important Farm Bill. This legislation is important to our farmers and ranchers, our rural businesses, our communities and our states.

Sincerely,



Governor John Hoeven
North Dakota



Governor James H. Douglas
Vermont


Governor M. Michael Rounds
South Dakota



Governor Dave Heineman
Nebraska


Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas


Governor David A. Paterson
New York


Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
Michigan


Governor Brad Henry
Oklahoma


Governor Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware

C: Chairman Tom Harkin
Chairman Collin Peterson
Ranking member Saxby Chambliss
Ranking member Bob Goodlatte
Chairman Charles Rangel
Chairman Max Baucus